

**AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the abstract as follows:

-- The present invention relates to a method of processing clinical samples for diagnosing bacterial infections by smear microscopy, culture or PCR as well as a kit for performing the said-method. This invention also pertains to two sets of primers specific for the DevR gene of *M. tuberculosis* as well as to a method of using saidthe primers for screening patients for tuberculosis by PCR. --

A clean copy of the amended abstract is attached.